



FUTURE VOICE

2021-22 REPORT

Future Voice has been running across two schools in the 2021-22 academic year, working with over 250 students in Year 12 and 13. It is a comprehensive, student-designed careers and personal development package which seeks to improve quality of life while at school, and prepare for life after. We support students to make an informed decision between higher education, apprenticeship, or immediate employment through weekly one-on-one mentoring alongside soft skills workshops, careers fairs, industry workshops/visits, work experience courses, enrichment activities and tailored support with applications.

Future Voice looks to inform, equip and support students in discovering and achieving their goals using over a decade of experience in the sector. We support schools by increasing capacity to enable weekly one-on-one mentoring to ensure no student slips through the net. Additionally, we use our established networks of industry professionals to curate a unique, tailored programme which appeals to each school's objectives and student interests. Future Voice aligns curriculum-based knowledge with practical experiences to introduce students to a range of industries and career paths. We aim to give every student the tools to make a considered and informed decision for their next steps and leave school confidently.

Every Year 13 student graduates with: a tailored personal statement and CV, improved soft employability skills, a network of contacts across industries, a primary and backup plan for their journey into their career of choice, experience in mock interviews, refined applications completed for their next steps and experience in real-life workplaces.

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME

In 2021-22, we were in each partner school one day per week, with extra days for one-off trips, fairs or conferences throughout the year as well as ongoing remote work to promptly answer student queries or give feedback on employability materials. All participants engaged in:



Soft Skills Masterclasses

Students developed confidence, resilience, presentation skills, teamwork and so much more through a variety of workshops throughout the academic year. Whether that's drama, debating or interview practice with our in-house specialist practitioners, or topics ranging from money management to goal setting with Barclays LifeSkills.



Industry Workshops & Networking

This year, we engaged with workshops and networking from four curated industries relevant to our students' interests. Healthcare workshops were facilitated by NHS with a panel of nurses, an insight into banking and enterprise was provided by Barclays over an afternoon workshop while UAL introduced students to a range of creative industries and employers through a visit through their facilities, and Multiverse introduced students to top tech employers and routes into FTSE 500 businesses with workshops and assemblies.



One-to-one Mentoring & Support with Applications

Every week, US Charitable Trust practitioners were on hand in schools to offer one-on-one mentoring to help students discover their aspirations and take tangible steps to achieve them. Whether that was support with UCAS or Student Finance or building CVs for job or apprenticeship applications. In particularly busy periods, approaching deadlines, five students from The Bridging Project joined our practitioners to increase capacity and ensure all students were given time.



A Tailored Careers Fair

Our team worked with departments to curate a series of employers, further education and training providers and public service resources to create a tailored careers fair attended by over 700 students. As well as networking opportunities, employers provided tangible work experience or holiday camp opportunities to students.



Work Experience Courses

As well as supporting students to find and apply for their own work experience in a variety of industries, we curated and offered a variety of work experience students to support the most vulnerable and highest achieving students through subsidised two-week experiences at InvestIn and The Talent Foundry worth over £1000 each.



Trips and Experiences

Students attended a variety of trips relevant to their future including university visits, student accommodation visits and workshops with local apprenticeship providers. Additionally however, students had the opportunity to attend key enrichment opportunities, including a photography project, women's conferences, sports clubs and an end of term trip to GoApe.



PSHE Support

We hosted a weekly session covering key topics covering either topics from the PSHE curriculum or particular relevant information to inform students on their next steps options upon leaving school. We covered topics ranging from student finance and clearing through to wellbeing, mental health and resilience. Tailored resources to each partner school were created and distributed to students and staff.

“If it wasn’t for Matt and Tiffany, I can confidently say that I would not be where I am now. I’ve been given many opportunities ranging from exploring a university that excels in photography, all the way to being accepted for one of the most prestigious offers of work experience in the country; in this case it is working for the marketing team at Disney+. They have been wonderfully helpful, teaching me the necessities of how to perform under pressure in interviews and how to engage with the interviewer. If it was not for Matt either, I would not have had any chance at all to pass my Further Maths exam as my school as not provided me with a teacher. Thanks to Matt’s help, I now actually have a chance of passing my exams. They also have organised a giant careers fair, leading to hundreds of open doors for all our students. My friends and I appreciate this so much and I genuinely cannot express how thankful and grateful we are to Matt and Tiffany.” **Y12 Student, Future Voice**

SOME OF THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS...



100% OF GRADUATING PARTICIPANTS HOLD AN OFFER RELEVANT TO THEIR NEXT STEPS

OUTCOMES AND DATA

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Build on employability skills and understand how to showcase them to a prospective employer.
- Increased enrichment opportunities while at school to improve wellbeing and provide vital post-pandemic social opportunities.
- Develop an ambitious, inquisitive mindset to develop a primary and backup plan for their future.
- Understand tips and tricks for a successful job or university interview with practical mock experience.
- Successfully develop employability materials including CV, cover letters and personal statements.
- Understand a full range of further education and training options with reference to pathways and prospects.
- Develop long-term goal setting skills,

School Outcomes:

- Increases staff capacity and professional contacts of careers programme by providing a stable, structured scheme of curated activities.
- Provides tangible evidence of all Gatsby Benchmarks contributing to an outstanding Ofsted rating.
- Develops relationships with local and national employers with specific relevance to curriculum areas of study.
- Helps imbue students with a positive, motivated mindset with realistic goals in mind as they move towards final exams.
- Directly connects schools with university widening participation schemes to aid in securing places for students.
- Support on a staff and student basis to secure relevant work experience.
- Increased student commitment to education due to increased aspiration coupled with a tangible plan to achieve their goals.

At the end of this year's programme, Year 13 leavers at a partner school filled in a questionnaire to measure the impact of Future Voice. We found:

before
now **34%**

100% of respondents feel confident in their future

96% of respondents feel proud of themselves

88% of respondents enjoy school more with a career in mind

96% of respondents feel their soft skills have improved

100% of participants hold a relevant offer for their next steps

“I am very grateful for having Matt and Tiffany here at school helping us with everything we need. They have helped us with choosing our universities, writing our personal statements, practicing for our interviews and helping us achieve the best. Without the help we would not be where we are, as everyone at the moment has received an offer from some top universities in the UK. At the beginning of Year 12, everyone in my year group and I were a bit unsure of what we wanted to do and there was no one to help us. I was a little worried until I received help from Tiffany, Matt and other members of the Us Charitable Trust. Tiffany has opened a lot of opportunities for us as a whole Sixth Form and, hearing from other students, friends and my own experience, I think they want everyone to achieve the very best without wanting anything in return. Every year, new opportunities are brought, opening so many doors for students. There are now people from outside school and big companies coming in to support the students, such as the NHS. I think it’s amazing and we, as a Sixth Form, should be very grateful because I really am.

Y13 Student, Future Voice

CASE STUDY A

We met Student A in Year 12 in the 2020-21 academic year. He was very adamant about his future working in the church. He was very religious and expressed his interest of exclusively working in the church very early on in the Future Voice programme. He is a passionate, smart young man who excelled throughout soft skills workshops and keenly attended extra-curricular trips and visits. He was always eager to communicate with others whether they were new people, or his classmates. During his mentoring, he worked with the Us staff to formulate a primary and secondary plan for his future. However, he was so set on his primary plan, he didn’t want to consider a second option. He’d been offered an apprenticeship with his local church a number of months ago and was completely set on taking this up. However, as time passed, he did not hear back from the church and realised this opportunity would no longer be possible. Although it was now approaching December 2021, he realised he wanted to study Theology at university. So, through one-on-one mentoring, we worked to bring him up to speed with other university applicants: writing his personal statement, practicing interview skills and choosing where he would like to apply. Although he was easily distracted and the deadline was fast approaching, he made slow progress on his application while working hard on his schoolwork to improve his attainment so he could make his offer. On the UCAS deadline day, US staff worked with him right up until the deadline in the evening to ensure his application was complete and submitted on time. He has now been accepted into Roehampton University to study Theology and will be starting his studies in September 2022.

CASE STUDY B

We have known Student B for a number of years through consistent enthusiasm and participation within programmes through the whole of secondary school and one of our partner schools. As he approached leaving, he enthusiastically engaged with all aspects of Future Voice – from the soft skills workshops to the mentoring and trips. He planned to leave school and study Law at university. As the UCAS deadline approached, he successfully submitted his application on time and received various offers, opting to accept St Mary's. However, as it came to completing his Student Finance, he faced a number of issues. As a Syrian immigrant, he had no British passport but was midway through the citizenship application process, so had send all photo ID to the Home Office as part of his application, however he hadn't heard back for 18 months and was left with no ID. Meanwhile, his family were being evicted from their council house in Northwest London and he was having to represent them in a court hearing to fight for more time in the house or access to different accommodation for his disabled mother. Throughout this process, Us staff met with him multiple times a week to support his communication with various organisation as well as his mental health and wellbeing. We helped him communicate his local MP, the council and the Home Office over a number of weeks, whether that was helping him fill in complex paperwork, write up emails explaining his situation, or simply be a familiar face to rely on in stressful times. Although it was out of our usual activities, we worked to make sure he was supported in any way we could – through signposting resources, aiding communication and supporting his wellbeing. At the time of writing, the family have gained access to council funding to secure new accommodation and are in the process of securing a new home. As it currently stands, he unfortunately cannot attend university this year due to his lack of ID, so Us staff aided him in deferring his place and creating a CV and cover letter to apply for jobs in the meantime. We also helped him apply for and secure two weeks of work experience with law firms to help him continue his academic journey in a small way in the meantime. Although it is an imperfect conclusion, we are so glad his family will be safe over the next year and are sure he will make it to university in 2023. Until then, we will continue to support him in receiving his UK passport, finding secure short-term employment and making the transition to university when he is ready.

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